

Remarks

In response to the Office Action dated April 03, 2007, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above claim amendment and the following remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance. Claims 16, 20, 22-25, 27, 29, 30, 34, 36-39, 41 and 43 are pending. Claims 27 and 41 have been amended to correct matters of dependency.

Claim Objections

Claims 24 and 41 have been objected to for being of improper form and failing to further limit the subject matter of the preceding claim as claims 24 and 41 depend from a cancelled claim. Applicants respectfully note that claim 24 properly depends from a previously presented independent claim 16. As such, the objection against claim 24 may be withdrawn. However, Applicants note that claims 27 and 41 depend from previously cancelled claims have been amended to depend from independent claims 16 and 30, respectively. Therefore any objections concerning claims 27 and 41 may be withdrawn.

103 Rejections

Claims 16, 20, 22-25, 27, 29, 30, 34, 36-39, 41 and 43 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bossemeyer (US Pat 6,490,444) in view of Henderson (US Pat 6,724,867) and further in view of Emerson (US Pat 6,928,070). To the extent these rejections apply to the currently pending claims, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Office Action rejects independent claim 16 by asserting that Bossemeyer describes most of the claim recitations but explicitly concedes that Bossemeyer fails to describe communicating an SS7 message, wherein the encryption method is based on a security code corresponding to the communications line. The Office Action relies on Emerson to cure this particular deficiency of Bossemeyer.

The Office Action implicitly concedes that Henderson also fails to cure this deficiency by not asserting the opposite to be the case and specifically relying on Emerson specifically to cure this discrepancy. Henderson is concerned with using signals received with, and other than, a dial tone at a customer premises device to

automatically connect to an off premises message location. Henderson does not address communicating an SS7 message, wherein the encryption method is based on a security code corresponding to the communications line and therefore also fails to cure the deficiencies of Bossemeyer.

Applicants respectfully note that Emerson is not proper prior art as in regards to the instant application. Emerson claims priority from provisional application 60/301,757 with a priority date of June 28, 2001. However, Applicants also note that the asserted claimed priority date of June 28, 2001 post dates the filing date of the instant application which is December 14, 2000. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that Emerson is not proper prior art vis-à-vis the instant application.

Therefore, because Henderson fails to cure the conceded discrepancies of Bossemeyer and Emerson is not prior art, the combination of Bossemeyer, Henderson and Emerson fails to describe each and every claim element of independent claim 16 which is therefore allowable over the combination of Bossemeyer, Henderson and Emerson for at least this reason.

The combination of Bossemeyer, Henderson and Emerson also forms the basis for the rejection of independent claim 30. As noted above, Emerson is not prior art in regards to the present application and such that the rejection of independent claim 30 also fails. Claims 20, 22-25, 27, 29, 34, 36-39, 41 and 43 depend from an allowable independent claim 16 or 30 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 16, 18, 20-27, 29, 30, 32, 34-41, 43, 45, and 47 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 25, 2007

/Arno T. Naeckel/

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